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18 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence
Associate Deputy Director for Operations
Acting Director of National Estimates
Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community

INFO : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Force Planning

1. At the DPRC meeting yesterday on U. S. General Purpose Forces Modernization, Dr. Kissinger expressed himself rather forcefully that force planning should be in response to our view of what kinds of contingencies we might face, with specific weapons systems planning and development a technical matter to follow force planning. He thus believes it important that we develop a set of general contingencies which we might face in the mid- and late 1980's to help us do the force planning which must be conducted in the next few years if we are to have the adequate weapons, etc., development time. He called for a working group to be assembled to produce in early September a set of the types of situations we might face in the 1980's against which we could do such force planning. The lead in such an exercise will be DOD and JCS, but CIA should be represented. Action: DDI

2. Since some of the prognostications were rather gloomy as to our ability to have an adequate defense establishment along the lines we seem to prefer, i.e., involving ever greater technology and cost per item, I suggested that it might be appropriate to do some consideration of cheaper forms of conflict which would not require such expensive force structures. These might include agreed arms limitation arrangements, economic contests, and even subversive or covert action on a sufficient scale to achieve our objectives. This suggestion went over rather like a lead balloon, but I still believe it might be worth some

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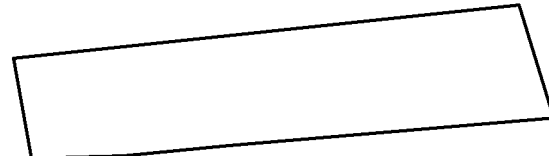
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conceptual work on our part, not necessarily incorporated into the exercise discussed in paragraph 1 above. Perhaps DDO could take the lead in doing some "R&D" thinking along these lines.

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W. E. Colby

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